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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/594,726 | NAKASHIMA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | KEITH T. AZIZ | 1791 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 59 and 61-75.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>20100129</u> . |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/6/2009</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Christopher Brody on 1/28/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

59. A laminating method of forming a laminate layer on a recording surface of a recording medium, comprising:

laying a laminate material having a size larger than the recording medium over the same and thermally press bonding them together; and

~~transferring a laminate layer of the laminate material onto the recording surface of the recording medium by the thermal press bonding, and transferring the laminate layer protruding outwards from the recording medium onto a transfer medium means that is disposed on the side of the surface of the recording medium opposite to the recording surface to be capable of being moved away from the surface of the recording medium opposite to the recording surface;~~

wherein the transfer medium means is moved towards the side of the recording medium opposite to the recording surface and separated so as to cut a laminated portion having the laminate layer adhered onto the recording surface away from a non-laminated portion having the laminate layer adhered onto the transfer medium means.

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60. (Cancelled)

61. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein the laminate material having a sheet-like substrate peelably laminated to the laminate layer is used and the substrate is peeled off from the laminate layer of the thermally press bonded laminate material.

68. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein an under film is used as the transfer medium means, and at least one of the laminate material and the under film is preheated prior to the thermally press bonding.

69. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein the transfer medium means is separated upon elapse of a given time after the thermally press bonding.

73. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein the speed at which the transfer medium means is separated is lowered for at least a leading edge side of the leading edge side and a tailing edge side of the recording medium in a separating direction of the transfer medium means.

75. The laminating method according to claim ~~60~~ 59, wherein a sheet-like transfer medium material is used as the transfer medium means and the transfer medium material is moved away from the recording medium in a direction obliquely thereto.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The limitation of claim 60, which is now amended into claim 59, was indicated as allowable subject matter in the office action dated 8/21/2009. Specifically because a process where a

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laminate is adhered to both a transfer medium means and a recording surface, and that the transfer means separates out the excess laminate that is not bound to the recording surface (but that the laminate is bound to the transfer medium means), is not found in the prior art. There is prior art where a transfer medium separates out excess laminate, but in this prior art, the transfer means that is used to separate the extra laminate is not adhered to the laminate, as is required in the immediate application.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following documents are cited to show analogous art.

U.S. Patent Application 2004/0202871 to Iwata et al., drawn to a transfer-laminating member and a production method thereof.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KEITH T. AZIZ whose telephone number is (571)270-7658. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 8:00am-6:30pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katarzyna I. Wyrozewski can be reached on (571)272-1127. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KTA/

/KHANH NGUYEN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1791